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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7454
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
(X) Release () Excise () Deny
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Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 7194

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, AR, SREF
SUBJECT: PEN DETAINEES

REF: CHAPLIN-BUMPUS TELECON

1. OUR TABULATION OF THE PERIODIC MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ANNOUNCEMENTS INDICATE THAT THERE ARE 3,323 PUBLICLY RECOGNIZED PRISONERS BEING HELD UNDER PODER EJECUTIVO NACIONAL (PEN) DECREES AS OF SEPTEMBER 12, 1978. A CHART OF PEN PRISONER POPULATION MOVEMENTS FROM DECEMBER, 1977 TO PRESETN IS BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT.

2. THERE IS NO STATISTICAL BREAKDOWN AVAILABLE REGARDING THE NUMBER OF PRISONERS DETAINED UNDER EXECUTIVE BRANCH PEN DECREES WHO ARE BEING OR HAVE BEEN PROCESSED BY ARGENTINE JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES. A MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN OFFICER WORKING GROUP ON HUMAN RIGHTS ESTIMATED THAT BETWEEN 30 AND 40 PERCENT OF THOSE PERSONS HELD UNDER PEN DECREES ARE EITHER BEING TRIED OR HAVE BEEN SENTENCED BY JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES OR HAVE COMPLETED THEIR JUDICALLY IMPOSED SENTENCES. FOWG SOURCE NOTED THAT THE NUMBER OF PERSONS IN THE LATTER CATEGORY WAS [REDACTED]

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SMALL. SOURCE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT OF THOSE PERSONS BEING TRIED BY THE JUDICIARY, A NUMBER WERE NOT ACTUALLY DETAINED

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UNDER THE JUDICIAL POWER'S PREVENTIVE DETENTION AUTHORITY.

3. INFORMATION PRESENTED TO EMBASSY DURING NEWSOM VISIT DATED MAY 24, 1978 BY THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR SHOWED THAT 1,679 PERSONS WERE BEING TRIED OR HAD BEEN SENTENCED BY JUDICIAL AND MILITARY COURTS. THE DATA DID NOT INDICATE HOW MANY OF THESE PERSONS WERE BEING HLED UNDER PEN DETENTION.

4. WE WILL CONTINUE TO TRY TO DEVELOP FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE NUMBER OF PEN PRISONERS WHO ARE BEING OR HAVE BEEN PROCESSED BY THE JUDICIAL OR MILITARY COURT SYSTEMS.
CHAPLIN

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